

# Welcome to Gunning!

The earliest people on the land were the Pajong People “Fish River Tribe”. European settlement began in 1821. Shortly after, in 1824 Hamilton Hume and William Hovell led an exploration party from the area to find new grazing lands and chart river flows to the south. Hume owned a property at Fish River, east of Gunning. The district boasts four distinct seasons and a heritage rich in agriculture. Merino sheep were introduced in the 1820s and Gunning remains a major centre of fine wool production not only in Australia, but worldwide. In the early 1900s Gunning was a highly prosperous town due to the booming wool industry and catered to the needs of travellers, villagers and surrounding rural communities. It is believed that the name Gunning may be derived from a Ngunnawal word “Goonong”, meaning “a place of many waterholes”.



*Material in this Gunning & District Historical Society publication (April, 2017, June 2018) draws extensively upon earlier work by Michael Coley, Irene Barrera, Ann Darbyshire, Lance Cooke and other members of the Gunning Focus Group, the Lions Club of Gunning, the Gunning District Chamber of Commerce (now Gunning District Association) and the Gunning & District Historical Society, supported by the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and the Upper Lachlan Tourist Association.*

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**CROOKWELL  
GUNNING - TARALGA**

Binda - Bigga - Collector - Dallon - Grabben Gullen - Laggan - Tuena



## TOWN WALK - SELF-GUIDED

*Approximately 1hr  
Start at The Post Office on Yass Street (corner of Warrlaw Street)*

**1 POST OFFICE – 1881 Yass Street**

Early communication between the outside world and Gunning was by horse and bullock over the Cullerlin Range to Gunning's East. The telegraph reached Gunning in 1858 and the railway in 1875. The first part of the post office and telegraph building was completed in 1881. The front (Yass Street) extension to the building was constructed in 1908 when the public telephone was installed. The telephone exchange opened in 1914 and the trunk line between Gunning and Yass began in 1916.

The post office became a Rural Transaction Centre in 2001 following the closure of the National Australia Bank branch, which was then located in the art deco building directly across Yass Street.



*Walk North East down Yass Street*

**2 BAILEY'S GARAGE – 1920 Yass Street**

The facade of the building built in 1920 features fine painted brickwork that celebrates a time when Gunning was a major transport centre. The painted wall of Holden Cars through the years has been a popular tourist attraction.



**3 CORONATION THEATRE – 1937 Yass Street**



(Picture House and Gallery Bookshop)  
The theatre was built in 1937 at the time of the coronation of King George VI. It replaced a building known as Victoria House, a big stone and brick building that was a shop with an adjoining residence.

**6 GUNNING MOTEL TO BARBOUR PARK**

The motel is on the land where the White Hart Hotel one of Gunning's most famous hotels, once stood. Gunning's freezing works established during the 1890s for the rabbit trade, was also located in this vicinity. Gunning used to be subject to flooding, with a damaging flood in 1959. With the gradual widening of Meadow Creek and the construction of the modern Jack Shaw Bridge in 1969, there have been no recent instances of buildings being flooded on the main street. Barbour Park was named in

*Cross Yass Street to enter Barbour Park*



**5. Telegraph Hotel**

The Telegraph Hotel celebrates the arrival of the telegraph in Gunning in 1858. The ground floor is much older than 1916, which was the date of the construction of its second story. There is a very fine pressed metal ceiling in the public bar. The area behind the Telegraph Hotel had sale yards where cattle and sheep were sold for many years.

**5 TELEGRAPH HOTEL – 1858 Yass Street**



**4. London House**

The brick building with the arched coach entrance built in 1881 is known as London House. The London House department store however, predated 1881 and was trading in the grey granite building behind and to the side of the brick archway. For many years London House was the main general store in Gunning, where it was said you could buy anything from a needle to an anchor. In its early history London House was a hotel known as Skelly's Inn. Now home to the Merino Cafe and Sophera Audio Equipment. The small building adjoining London House was for many years the home of an auctioneer, a barber and a saddler.

**4 LONDON HOUSE – 1881 Yass Street**

**7 GUNNING RURAL SUPPLIES – Yass Street**

Between Meadow Creek and the new Gunning Rural Supplies there were many buildings that are no longer standing, including a blacksmith and wheelwright, Moore and Baker's Garage, Lawton's Produce Shop, and the Rural Supplies modern building continues Gunning's tradition of establishing new architecture with each generation. The building is modern although architecturally compatible with the other double story buildings on this side of Yass Street, Caxton House and Saxby House. It also echoes the shearing sheds that are a major part of the district's wool producing heritage.

*Proceed to walk back down Yass street*



**6. Barbour Park and Meadow Creek**

honor of a doctor who served in the district for 50 years, as well as holding the position of Shire President. Community groups have contributed to the amenities and the plantings have been extended to form a walk on the northern side in recent years.



**9 SAXBY HOUSE -1860 Yass Street**

**\*Please note Saxby House is now a private residence**

Saxby House was originally a single story triple brick building built in the 1860s. The second story was built in the 1920s and the verandah in the 1980s. Gunning's first electricity, a DC plant was located on land now occupied by Saxby House's garage.

**10 GUNNING COURTHOUSE -1879 Yass Street**

The Court House was built in two stages, in 1872 as a police station and in 1879 the fine late Victorian government building that faces Yass Street. The last cases were heard in 1979, it is now a community centre housing the Gunning District Community and Health Service. The Court Room in the centre front is used for special events and arts events such as chamber music and art exhibitions, the Court Room is open for inspection monthly during the Lions markets on the last Sunday of each month.



10. Gunning Courthouse circa1885

**11a 11b THE OLD BANKS – 1930s Yass Street**

The two story art deco buildings at the western corner of Yass and Warrataw Streets was the bank building built in the 1930s to replace the late Victorian bank (next door along Yass Street). The old single story late Victorian bank building on Yass Street, next door to the art deco building was the first purpose-built bank in Gunning, opened in 1881.



11a. The Old Bank



11b. The New Bank

**12 PYE COTTAGE – 1860 Yass Street**

Pye Cottage was built in Dalton in about 1860. It was given to the Gunning and District Historical Society in 1970 by the Pye family. The building was moved from Dalton to its present site by community effort, and opened on 28 September 1974 by the Reverend Ray Diver. Pye Cottage is now a museum that celebrates the pioneering past of the Gunning.



12. Pye Cottage

**13 THE SHIRE COUNCIL PRECINCT**

The precinct consists of three separate office buildings, built in 1915, 1971 and 1998 and a depot. Gunning Shire Council was established in 1906 and abolished on 11 February 2004, when Gunning and the northern part of Gunning Shire became part of the Upper Lachlan Shire.



13. Gunning Shire Office

*Cross Yass Street*

**14 GUNNING PUBLIC SCHOOL – 1871 Yass St**

The first school was built in 1871, originally including the teacher's residence, the school rooms were built in approximately 1920.

The milestone outside the school showing the distance in miles to Goulburn and Yass is accurate and reminds those of the days when the Hume Highway from Sydney to Melbourne passed directly through Gunning, until 5 April 1993.



14. Gunning Public School

**15 OLD SADDLERY – C. 1860 Yass Street**

Originally built as a Blacksmith's and Wheelwrights, the front of the building was later used as a saddlery and then became Gunning Peerless Printer. Another of its uses was a branch of the Commonwealth Bank.



15. Old Saddlery

**16 LIBRARY- 1924 Yass Street**

The Gunning Library was built in 1924 by public subscription, to commemorate Hume and Hovell's momentous journey to Westernport Bay in 1824.



16. Gunning Library

*This section of today's walk has followed Yass Street, originally the Hume Highway*

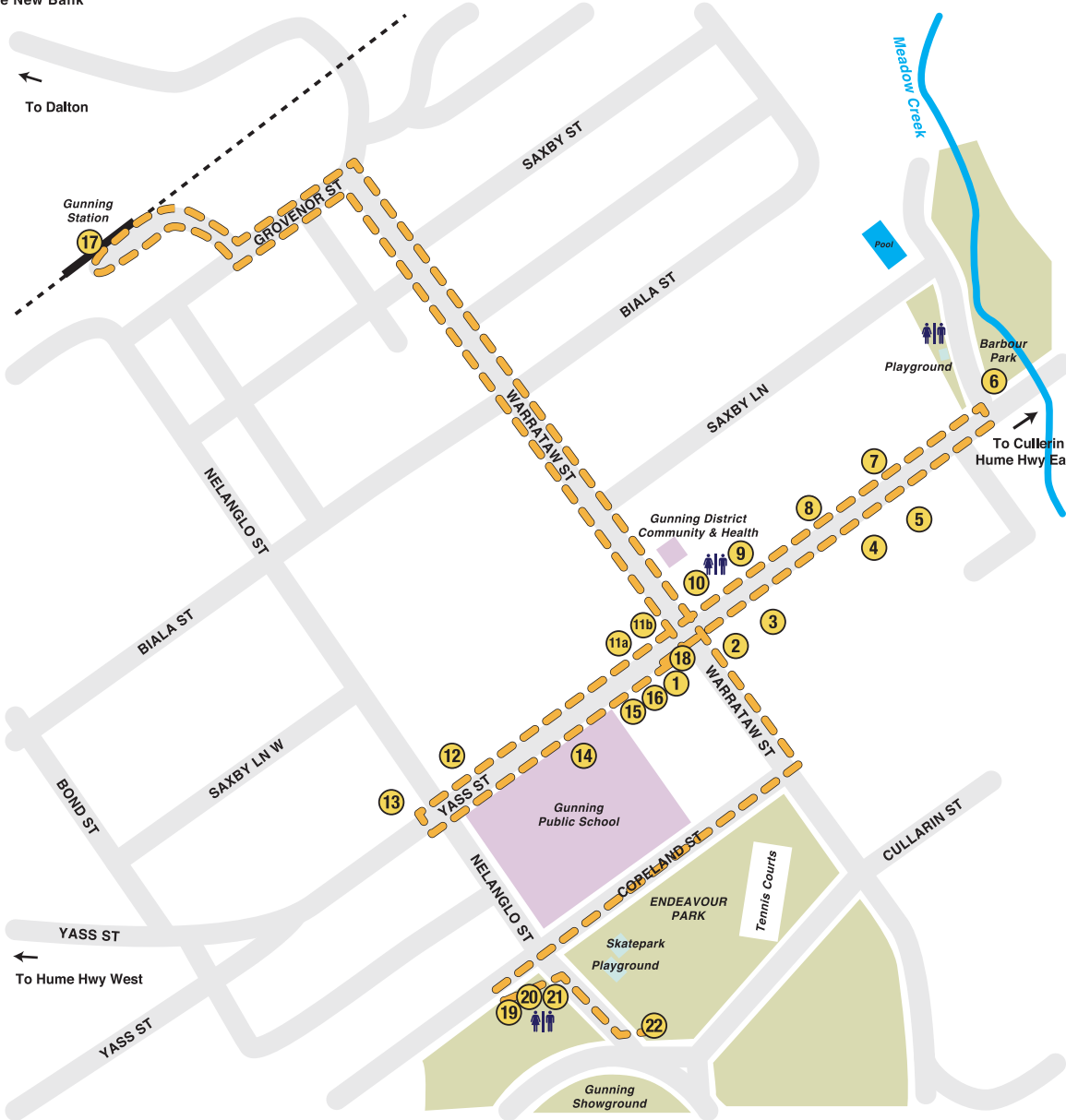
*To view the RAILWAY Station:*

*Return to the post office and walk or drive uphill along Warrataw Street to Grovenor Street.*

*(Please note this is a 20 minute walk return)*

Warrataw Street was once a bustling commercial area due to the arrival of the railway. Note the old Butcher's Shop and Frankfield House on the right.

*Turn left into Grovenor Street*



**17 GUNNING RAILWAY STATION - 1875**

**\*Please note the Station Master's residence is now a private residence**  
Following the arrival of the railway in 1875, the town experienced a boom period as Gunning became a terminal for products moving to and from Sydney. The goods were then distributed by dray as far as the Riverina area. The single line required a turntable and pumping station at Fish River to the north of the town.

*Return back to the post office on Yass Street*

**18 THE CENOTAPH**

The proposal for this Cenotaph erected in 1923 was championed by Ernest Plews and officially dedicated by Brigadier (later Major-General) Sir Granville Ryrle.

Everyone from the Gunning district who served and volunteered during the World Wars have their names recorded.

The Vietnam War claimed the life of Private Barry Thompson, he was awarded a military funeral, the first held in Gunning.



*Turn left into Warrataw Street St away from the Cenotaph. Then turn right into Copeland Street towards the Gunning Shire Hall (opened in 1938 by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons) and enter the showgrounds in front of the Shire Hall.*

**19 MEMORIAL GATES**

Immediately on your left are the Memorial Gates to the Memorial Grove. Previously these gates formed a nearby entrance to the showgrounds, but their 10ft (3m) width was apparently too small for some drivers who were unable to negotiate the space without causing regular damage to them. After many repairs they were moved to their current location, with new plaques added on the flanking piers and rededicated on 11 November 1991.



*Now please enter the Memorial Grove.*

**20 MEMORIAL GROVE**

The trees in Memorial Grove were planted in 1956 and plaques dedicated to the fallen of the district were placed at their base. In 2001 the Grove was refurbished with roses, rosemary bushes and benches. The remaining plaques were fixed into the plinth near the Gates. Plaques for service personnel originally from the district, who died from war related causes and who were buried or cremated elsewhere, are also present.



20. Memorial Grove

**21 FIELD GUN**

Originally a 17-pound field artillery gun stood in Barbour Park. In 1996 the 23rd Field Artillery Regiment swapped that gun, for the one seen here a 25-pound field artillery gun.



21. 25-pound Field Artillery Gun

*Walk to your right along the tarmac road past the covered picnic setting to the white memorial.*

**22 BOER WAR Memorial**

This memorial to Denis Joseph Murray was erected by his friends. He died of enteric fever (typhoid) in South Africa in 1901. His family were from the nearby Oolong area, there is a gravestone in the Catholic Cemetery bearing his name. NSW raised 1860 troops for the Boer War, of the 600 Australians who died, as many succumbed to disease as were killed.



22. Boer War Memorial to Denis Joseph Murray

Other memories of local men and women who served in war can be seen amongst the gravestones of the general cemetery on Wombat Street and the Catholic cemetery on Collector Road. St Edmund's Anglican Church, Biala Street, possess memorial windows and entrance gates, dedicated to local fallen service people.

*Return to the Cenotaph (by the post office) by retracing your footsteps or by walking through the Showgrounds past the Skate Park and the Tennis Courts, towards Warrataw Street, turning left.*

